

Message Text

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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT DREW MIDDLETON BYLINER NEW YORK TIMES FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, HEADED "ANXIETIES ABOUT NATO/MILITARY UNSURE OF READINESS AS SOVIET BUILDS ITS NUCLEAR STRENGTH AND EMPHASIZES SURPRISE."

2. A SENIOR UNITED STATES MILITARY ATTACHE RETURNING TO HIS POST IN WESTERN EUROPE CONFIDED TO A FRIEND THAT, AFTER EXTENSIVE PENTAGON BRIEFINGS ON SOVIET DEPLOYMENTS, "I'M FRIGHTENED, AND I'VE NEVER BEEN FRIGHTENED BEFORE." HIS ANXIETY IS SHARED BY GENERAL OFFICERS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION COUNTRIES. THE CONCERN IS BASED FIRST, THE OFFICERS SAY, ON THE INCREASED STRENGTH OF SOVIET TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE ALONG WITH A NEW EMPHASIS IN RUSSIAN MILITARY WRITING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF SURPRISE AND THE INEVITABILITY OF NUCLEAR WAR ONCE THE FIRST SHOT OF A CONVENTIONAL WAR HAS BEEN FIRED.

3. A SECOND BASIS FOR ANXIETY, THEY SAY, IS THE CON-
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TINUED EXPANSION OF SOVIET CONVENTIONAL FORCES IN CEN-

TRAL EUROPE AND THE REFUSAL OF MOST OFFICIALS IN NATO

COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES.

4. IN THE VIEW OF SENIOR NATO COMMANDERS, THE MOST LIKELY CONSEQUENCE, IF SOVIET EXPANSION AND WESTERN CONTRACTION CONTINUE, IS SOVIET POLITICAL PRESSURE ON INDIVIDUAL NATO MEMBERS BACKED BY OVERWHELMING CONVENTIONAL AND TACTICAL NUCLEAR POWER.

5. A SECOND RESULT, ACCORDING TO A REPORT BY SENATORS SAM NUNN AND DEWEY F. BARTLETT OF THE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE, WHO RECENTLY VISITED EUROPE, IS THAT A NATO REFUSAL TO IMPROVE CONVENTIONAL MILITARY STRENGTH MAY INVITE THE WARSAW PACT NATIONS "TO LAUNCH A MAJOR CONVENTIONAL INVASION OF WESTERN EUROPE."

6. AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN SOURCES IN NATO CONTEND THAT THE EMPHASIS THEY PLACE ON SOVIET STRENGTH IS MEANT MORE TO AWAKEN THE LAGGING MEMBERS OF NATO -- BRITAIN, FRANCE, BELGIUM AND THE NETHERLANDS -- THAN TO SPUR WEST GERMANY AND THE UNITED STATES TO GREATER EFFORTS ON THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL FRONT, WHICH FACES THE BULK OF THE WARSAW PACT'S MILITARY STRENGTH.

7. THE "FIRST ELEMENT OF REALITY," AS A SENIOR WESTERN COMMANDER PUT IT, IS THE NEW SOVIET NUCLEAR STRENGTH -- INCLUDING BOTH STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL WEAPONS. HE CONCEDED, INCIDENTALLY, THAT HE, ALONG WITH OTHER AUTHORITIES, REGARDED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS AS "BLURRED"; SOME OF THE TACTICAL WEAPONS HAVE MORE DESTRUCTIVE POWER THAN SOME OF THE STRATEGIC ONES, SOME STRATEGIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS ARE MORE ACCURATE THAN THEIR TACTICAL STABLEMATES.

8. THE SOVIET GROUP OF FORCES IN GERMANY RECENTLY EXPANDED THEIR TACTICAL STRENGTH BY THE INTRODUCTION OF A 180-MILLIMETER FIELD GUN THAT IS REPORTED TO HAVE A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY. THIS GUN, WITH A RANGE OF MORE THAN 27 MILES, SUPPLEMENTS THE 203.2-MILLIMETER GUN-HOWITZER, UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH HAS A NUCLEAR CAPABILITY.

9. SINCE 1970, ACCORDING TO WESTERN ANALYSTS, THE OVERALL STRENGTH OF ARTILLERY FORMATIONS ATTACHED TO MOTORIZED RIFLE AND ARMORED DIVISIONS HAS BEEN INCREASED.

10. THE SECOND ELEMENT IN THE REVISED ESTIMATES OF SOVIET NUCLEAR STRENGTH IS THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE SS-X-20

IN THE WESTERN PROVINCES OF THE SOVIET UNION. THIS IS A
MOBILE IRBM (INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILE) ARMED

WITH MIRV.S (MULTIPLE INDEPENDENTLY TARGETABLE RE-ENTRY
VEHICLES).

11. THE EXISTENCE OF THE SS-X-20, ONE NATO SOURCE SAID,
COULD INHIBIT THE WEST.S USE OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS
AGAINST RUSSIAN CONVENTIONAL TARGETS BECAUSE SUCH USE
WOULD BE "ALMOST CERTAIN" TO INVITE SOVIET RESPONSE
AGAINST PORTS AND OTHER URBAN CENTERS IN WESTERN EUROPE.

12. THE APPARENT SOVIET READINESS TO ACCEPT A NUCLEAR
CONFLICT HAS EXACERBATED WESTERN FEARS.

13. A.S. MILOVIDOV EXPRESSED THE SOVIET VIEW THAT, "IN
THE MILITARY, ONE CANNOT BE GUIDED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF
.BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.. PREDICTIONS IN MILITARY
AFFAIRS, PARTICULARLY WHEN ONE TAKES INTO CONSIDERATION
A POTENTIAL NUCLEAR MISSILE WAR, SHOULD CORRESPOND IN
FULL TO THE PRINCIPLE OF .THE SOONER THE BETTER.. "

14. MR. MILOVIDOV.S COMMENTS APPEARED IN HIS TREATISE
"THE PHILOSOPHICAL HERITAGE OF V.I. LENIN AND PROBLEMS
OF CONTEMPORARY WAR," PUBLISHED IN 1973.

15. THE WILLINGNESS TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS COUPLED
WITH THE STRESS LAID UPON SURPRISE. THE RUSSIAN "EXPLA-
NATORY DICTIONARY OF MILITARY TERMS" EXPLAINS THAT
"SURPRISE IS ACHIEVED BY LEADING THE ENEMY INTO ERROR
CONCERNING ONE.S OWN INTENTIONS, BY PRESERVING IN SECRET
THE PLAN OF BATTLE ... BY THE UNEXPECTED USE OF THE
NUCLEAR WEAPON AND OTHER NEW COMBAT MEANS."
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16. THE MAJORITY OF WESTERN PLANNERS, IN THIS COUNTRY
AND IN EUROPE, ACCEPT, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT LIKE, THE
SOVIET PREPONDERANCE IN TANKS. THEY ARGUE, HOWEVER,
THAT IT IS WRONG TO ASSESS EASTERN AND WESTERN STRENGTH
IN TERMS OF TANK VERSUS TANK ALONE. A MORE ACCURATE
INDEX, THEY SAY, IS A MATCH OF OVERALL WARSAW PACT TANK
STRENGTH OF ABOUT 25,000 TANKS AGAINST THE NATO POWERS.
ADVANCED ANTI-TANK MISSILE AND GUN SYSTEMS.

17. WESTERN MILITARY SOURCES BELIEVE THAT IN SOME
AREAS, WITH ELECTRONICALLY GUIDED MISSILES AND SOPHIS-
TICATED FIGHTER AND STRIKE AIRCRAFT, FOR EXAMPLE, THE
WEST STILL ENJOYS A QUALITATIVE ADVANTAGE. THEY ADD
THAT OF THE GROUND FORCES ON THE CENTRAL EUROPEAN FRONT,

ONLY THE AMERICANS, WEST GERMANS AND BRITISH CAN BE
CONSIDERED "RELIABLE ELEMENTS" IN A FULL-SCALE CONVEN-
TIONAL OR TACTICAL NUCLEAR WAR.

18. A STUDY BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS ARGUES THAT "AS
IT STANDS, THE QUANTITATIVE BALANCE CONTINUES TO SHIFT
TOWARD THE SOVIET UNION. U.S. QUALITATIVE SUPERIORITY
NEVER COMPENSATED COMPLETELY AND, IN CERTAIN RESPECTS,
IS SLOWLY SLIPPING AWAY."

19. "THE POINT," A SENIOR NATO OFFICER SAID RECENTLY,
"IS THAT WE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES CAN STAY AHEAD IN
THE QUALITY OF WEAPONS BUT THAT IS NOT ENOUGH: WE HAVE
TO EXPAND OUR PRODUCTION OF SUCH WEAPONS, AND SO DO THE
GERMANS AND THE BRITISH, IF WE ARE TO STAY EVEN." END
TEXT.
ROBINSON

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